

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 145089

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CG, US

SUBJECT: ALLEGED U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN PLOT AGAINST MOBUTU;
EXPULSION OF AMBASSADOR HINTON

DAR ES SALAAM FOR ASST. SECRETARY DAVIS

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF STATEMENT ON ZAIRE SITUATION
MADE BY DEPT. SPOKESMAN AT NOON BRIEFING JUNE 19 AND
ENSUING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: QTE THE ONLY OTHER
STATEMENT I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IS WITH REGARD TO ZAIRE:
WE REGRET THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE HAS REQUESTED THE
AMBASSADOR TO ZAIRE--DEANE HINTON--TO LEAVE ZAIRE BY
SATURDAY IN THE INTEREST OF U.S.-ZAIRE RELATIONS.

QTE WE BELIEVE THIS ACTION IS UNFORTUNATE, BUT I SHOULD
ADD THAT WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO OUR LONGSTANDING
GOOD RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 145089

QTE NOW, I'D BE DELIGHTED TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.

QTE Q BOB, WHY IS HE BEING ASKED TO LEAVE?

QTE A AS MY STATEMENT SAID, HE WAS ASKED TO LEAVE IN THE INTEREST OF U.S.-ZAIRE RELATIONS AND,

AS YOU KNOW, THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS IN THE ZAIRE PRESS, KINSHASA PRESS, ABOUT ALLEGED AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN AN ALLEGED ABORTED COUP D'ETAT.

QTE I THINK YOU WILL ALL RECALL THAT I DENIED THIS AND SAID THERE WAS NO FOUNDATION FOR THIS ABOUT THREE DAYS AGO. WE ALSO POSTED--AND I COULD GO OVER THAT WITH YOU, AS I WAS ASKED THIS AT THE TIME--ON JUNE 17, I WAS ASKED BY LARS, I BELIEVE, IF WE HAD DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT. ON JUNE 16, THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRE OF THE EMBASSY OF ZAIRE HERE WAS ASKED TO COME IN BY THE ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS EDWARD MULCAHY. AND MR. MULCAHY TOLD HIM THAT THE STORY IN THE NEWSPAPER CALLED ELIMA--WHICH IS A SEMI-OFFICIAL PAPER IN KINSHASA--WAS WITHOUT FOUNDATION AND THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD WISH TO HEAR DIRECTLY FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE WHAT EVIDENCE EXISTS TO SUPPORT THE ALLEGATION.

QTE SO THAT'S A RATHER LONG ANSWER TO YOUR VERY QUICK, BRIEF QUESTION.

QTE Q BUT IT'S STILL WITHOUT FOUNDATION THEN?

QTE A YES, IT IS.

QTE Q YOU HAVE DISCOVERED NOTHING IN THE LAST FEW DAYS?

QTE A NO, SIR. AND WE STILL HAVE BEEN GIVEN NO EVIDENCE. WE CERTAINLY ARE FULLY PREPARED TO EXAMINE WITH THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT ANY EVIDENCE THEY MAY CHOOSE TO GIVE US, BUT WE HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN ANY AT THIS TIME.

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PAGE 03 STATE 145089

QTE Q YOU MEAN THE AMBASSADOR--WAS HE SUMMONED INTO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY--OR HOW WAS HE--

QTE A YES. DEANE HINTON WAS CALLED IN LAST NIGHT AND TOLD THAT HE SHOULD LEAVE BY SATURDAY.

QTE Q BOB, ON FBIS TODAY THERE'S A REPORT THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU WAS ADDRESSING A RALLY YESTERDAY AND CHARGING

AGAIN THAT UNNAMED COUNTRIES--PLURAL--WERE INVOLVED IN THIS ATTEMPT TO SPONSOR A COUP BY BUYING HIS FRIENDS' LOYALTY. AND TODAY AGAIN THE NEWSPAPER SALONGU REPEATED THE CHARGES THAT THE CIA WAS INVOLVED IN A COUP. HOW DO YOU ADDRESS THESE TWO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS?

QTE A I READ THE SAME REPORT YOU HAVE. I CAN ONLY

REPEAT WHAT I SAID BEFORE -- AND I'VE SAID IT AGAIN HERE TODAY -- THAT THESE ALLEGATIONS ARE WITHOUT FOUNDATION, AND WE STAND FULLY PREPARED AND WOULD WELCOME A CHANCE TO EXAMINE WITH THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT ANY EVIDENCE THAT THEY MAY HAVE OF ALLEGED UNITED STATES INVOLVEMENT.

QTE Q IS THERE A FOUNDATION TO THE ALLEGATION PRINTED IN NUMEROUS BOOKS THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU IS A POLITICAL CREATION OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY?

QTE A I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THIS AT ALL.

QTE Q IS THERE ANY FOUNDATION TO THEIR CLAIMS THAT THERE WAS AN ATTEMPTED COUP, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER WE WERE INVOLVED IN IT OR NOT. HAVE WE HAD ANY REPORTS OR ANY INDICATION THAT THERE WAS AN ATTEMPT TO DEPOSE PRESIDENT MOBUTU?

QTE A I'M UNAWARE OF ANY.

QTE Q ARE WE GOING TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT ASKING THEIR AMBASSADOR TO GET OUT OR ANYTHING?

QTE A I'M UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH MOVE THAT WOULD BE TAKEN ALONG THAT LINE, STEWART.
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PAGE 04 STATE 145089

QTE Q BOB --

QTE A YES, SIR.

QTE Q -- IN THE LIGHT OF ALL THE INFORMATION THAT'S COME OUT IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS ABOUT THE CIA AND ITS INVOLVEMENT IN OPERATIONS LIKE THIS ONE -- AND I REALIZE THIS IS A DIFFICULT QUESTION FOR YOU TO ANSWER -- BUT WHAT ELSE COULD YOU SAY, EVEN IF THE UNITED STATES WERE INVOLVED, BUT WHAT YOU HAVE ALREADY SAID? THAT YOU KNOW NOTHING OF IT?

QTE A ALL I AM SAYING IS THAT THE ALLEGATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE ARE WITHOUT ANY FOUNDATION, AND I JUST MUST

OBVIOUSLY LEAVE IT THERE. THERE'S NO FOUNDATION TO
THESE ALLEGATIONS. UNQUOTE.

2. ADDRESSEES MAY DRAW UPON STATEMENT AND ANSWERS ABOVE
IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS FROM HOST GOVERNMENTS AND
THIRD PARTIES. IN DOING SO, HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD SEEK TO
AVOID GIVING IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE PUBLICLY CHALLENGING
GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE TO PRODUCE EVIDENCE OF US COMPLICITY
IN PLOT. WE DO WISH TO CLEAR THE AIR WITH GOZ BUT

BELIEVE THIS CAN BEST BE DONE IN PRIVATE. IN RESPONDING
TO QUESTIONS, THEREFORE, POSTS SHOULD STRESS OUR REGRET
AT CHARGES AND EXPULSION, OUR DENIAL OF INVOLVEMENT IN
ANY PLOT AGAINST MOBUTU, AND IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO GOOD
RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE. KISSINGER

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